

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, 16, and 17 are presently pending. Claims 2, 9, 15, and 18-20 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, and 17 were rejected. Claims 7 and 14 are allowed. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 13 are objected to but indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. Assignee appreciates Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Examiner indicated in the office action of May 10, 2006, that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Assignee has amended to claim 1 to reflect claim 2 as then written, in independent form. Accordingly, Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection to claim 1, and dependent claim 4.

Examiner indicated in the office action of September 14, 2006 that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Assignee has amended claim 8 to reflect claim 9 in independent form. Accordingly, Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection to claim 8, and dependent claims 10, 12, 16, and 17.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Assignee respectfully submits that each of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance and Examiner is requested to pass this case to issuance.

To the extent that there is any fee associated with action requested herein, the Commissioner of Patents is

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expressly authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account
13-0017.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



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